Direct train from Lucknow to Jaipur

†1492. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that facility of direct train from Lucknow to Jaipur *via* Alwar has been withdrawn;

(b) whether it is causing a lot of inconvenience to the common passengers;

(c) whether train from Lucknow to Alwar would again be started;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. When Jodhpur and Varanasi were connected by Metre Gauge, Jodhpur-Varanasi Marudhar Express used to connect Jaipur-Lucknow *via* Bharatpur and not *via* Alwar. When the gauge conversion took place in phases, the train was shifted to Broad Gauge and it ran *via* Alwar-Mathura-Agra Cantt. till Bandikui-Bharatpur Broad Gauge section got commissioned. The train has since been restored to run *via* Bharatpur-Agra Fort-Tundla which is shorter by 86 kms. and, avoids reversal at Agra Cantt.

At present, 9269/9270 Porbandar-Motihari Express (weekly) and 5715/5716 Ajmer-Kishangarh Garib Nawaj Express,(weekly) connects Lucknow-Alwar-Jaipur *via* Alwar-Delhi.

An increase in the frequency of 5715/5716 Ajmer-Kishangarh Garib Nawaj. Express from weekly to tri-weekly has been announced in Railway Budget 2007-2008 which will provide additional connectivity between Lucknow-Alwar-Jaipur.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Neither operationally feasible nor desirable.

Gauge conversion between Karaikudi and Manamadurai

1493. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) on putting into use of newly laid broad gauge conversion track between Rameswaram and Manamadurai, what are the number of trains proposed between Rameswaram to Chennai *via* Manamadurai and Madurai and back;

(b) when the only pending stretch of broad gauge conversion between Karaikudi and Manamadurai would be over to complete the whole link between Rameswaram and Chennai *via* Pudukottai; and

(c) whether there would be an extra effort to complete this pending stretch at the proposed date to speed up the process of execution ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.